

Poison Ivy

JUNE 2016

MYTH: Poison ivy rashes can be spread by skin-to-skin contact.

FACT: Poison ivy rashes can only be spread by contact with the oils from the plants. It is not contagious between people if you have properly washed the rash area.

The poison ivy rash is caused by a substance called **urushiol** found in the sap of the poison ivy plant.

MYTH: Get rid of poison ivy rashes by washing them with water once.

FACT: Wash affected area with soap and water immediately and repeat that process three times to remove all oils on skin left by the poison ivy.



The characteristics of the poison ivy plant are; **solid green, pointed leaves** that hang from the stem in **groups of three**.

MYTH: Only the leaves are toxic.

FACT: All parts of the plants can trigger an allergic response, including the leaves, roots, flowers, berries, stems, and vines.

MYTH: Poison ivy rashes can be treated with bleach.

FACT: Do not apply bleach to a poison ivy rash! For itching, use over-the-counter creams like calamine lotion. The rash can last 2-4 weeks.

